Introduction of ten Rupees coin

642. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India propose to introduce Rs. 10 coins by 2006-2007;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the RBI has decided to reintroduce notes of Rs. 5 due to shortage of such coins; and

(c) if so, the important features of Rs. 10 coins?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, there is no shortage of Rs. 5 coin.

(c) The new Rs. 10 coin will be in bi-metallic. The outer ring of the coin will be of Aluminium-Bronze and the centre piece will be of Cupro-Nickel.

Thailand as new hub of fake currency notes

643. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Thailand is the new hub of the racket to pump fake currency notes into India, in addition to traditional bases like Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per official estimates the number of fake currency/in circulation is 61,000 million pieces (of different denominations) worth Rs. 1,69,000 crore per year; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make counterfeiting difficult?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Some of the reported seizures indicated that Fake Indian Currency Notes are being smuggled into the country from some South-East Asian countries.